

Guidance and Counseling Services **DIGEST**

Vol. 12, No. 3

Please forward this Digest to your colleagues.

October 2014

Our Vision: That all schools will have fully implemented Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs that advance the academic, career, and personal/social development of all students.

Our Mission: To work collaboratively with counselor educators, the Missouri School Counselor Association, the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education and other stakeholders to develop and provide resources and meaningful professional development that support professional school counselors and career services personnel in their efforts toward full implementation of their programs.

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Announcements

Resources and information provided in the Guidance Digest are for communication purposes only. Listing these resources and information does not constitute endorsement by either the Guidance and Counseling Services Section or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

New Guidance Digest Distribution System

To continue receiving the Guidance Digest **you MUST subscribe** to the new Guidance Listserv at <http://lists.mo.gov/mailman/listinfo/guidancelistserv> Follow the online directions. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rene' Yoesel at rene.yoesel@dese.mo.gov

To those of you who have already registered: You will receive this edition of the Guidance Digest twice, once via this system and through the new system.

To receive the Guidance Digest after this October edition, you MUST personally register!

School Counselor Evaluation Instrument Update

The new counselor evaluation instrument is being developed this fall with plans for a voluntary pilot this spring. Training for **administrators and counselors** will be provided at the Spring Guidance System of Support meetings. The finalized instrument will be available fall 2015. In this transition period, it is still recommended that school counselors be evaluated with an instrument designed to address their unique program and job expectation.

DESE Guidance and Counseling Website

All guidance and counseling materials are now located on the DESE Guidance and Counseling website. The merge and transition of materials continues to be a work in progress. If you experience technical difficulties or broken links please contact Chris Coffman at Christopher.Coffman@dese.mo.gov.

Program Components

CURRICULUM

Updated Guidance Curriculum

The newly updated K-12 guidance and counseling GLEs and curriculum has been posted to the DESE Guidance website: <http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling/curriculum>

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PLANNING

Missouri Connections

There are a few Missouri Connections Fall Workshops left. To Register go to www.missouriconnections.org. There is no charge for the workshop, however pre-registration is required. Attend this training to see the 2014 enhancements and receive customized support. Contact Jackie Coleman jcoleman@motrainer.com or 573-634-0043 with questions.

Missouri Connections Video Room

Find career clusters videos and personal interviews of people in occupations at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling/missouri-connections-videos>

This link is also located on the Missouri Connections portal page, under "Students".

Spanish Translations - Click on the Spanish announcement in the rotating announcement banner, once you have logged in, for a list of items that have been translated into Spanish.

RESPONSIVE SERVICES

SAMHSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is offering a free mobile app, KnowBullying, to help initiate meaningful conversations with children regarding Bullying. [SAMHSA's Bullying Prevention App | SAMHSA.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) For more information on the prevention of Bullying and what you can do, check out the information at <http://www.stopbullying.gov>

Mandated Reporter

Missouri's Mandated Reporter requirements state that "All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect." (Section 162.069.3 RSMo.) (Section 210.115 RSMo.) <http://missourikidsfirst.org>

SYSTEM SUPPORT

Virtual Support

The Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP), which is run by the Department, has four professional, Missouri-certified, counselors with a wealth of public school and online experience. Please feel free to contact them at any time to discuss how MoVIP may be able to help students in your school district. <http://movip.org/contact-us.html>

RED Ribbon Week 2014

Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, 2014.

ACT Missouri is a not-for-profit organization funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health and established to promote drug and alcohol awareness throughout Missouri. Do you need ideas for your Red Ribbon Week celebration or are you interested in learning more about the MYAA annual art contest? Check out the information provided at www.actmissouri.org

Parent Survey

Help Keep Kids Safe This School Year is an initiative sponsored by the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis and ACT Missouri (This is a prevention based organization, not the testing organization <http://www.actmissouri.org/>) They will appreciate it if schools will share the following announcement with parents.

Parents – if you have students in grades 6-12, please complete a survey about substance use and other important issues affecting teens in your community. <http://surveys.missouri.edu/parents>
It is confidential and anonymous. Your answers will help prevention programming in Missouri. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at 573-882-7396.

Best Practices Supporting School Safety

A list of recommendations prepared by the Missouri Association of School Psychologists
<http://www.maspweb.org/Membership/3103627>

Conferences and Professional Development Opportunities

Guidance System of Support

The Missouri Guidance System of Support (GSOS) is a collaborative state-wide initiative designed to support all K-12 counselors in fully implementing a Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program.

The Fall meeting focus will be to “Reflect, Collaborate, Act – Moving Your Program Forward” focusing on enhancing the K-12 Individual Student Planning Process (including elementary!).

Check out the following website for the program overview and to register.

<http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling/guidance-elearning/guidanc-8>

Guidance System of Support

Building Guidance and Counseling Programs That Impact Lives and Performance

Community Services Summit

The 16th Annual Community Services Summit will be held on October 28, 2014, in St. Peters, MO. The Summit is a day-long series of workshops designed to build stronger community through professional connections. The Community Services Summit will focus on how the community works together to share resources and practical ideas to tackle critical issues. There will be an extensive exhibit hall highlighting key resources in the community as well as a keynote address and thought-provoking, useful, skill-building sessions. The Community Services Summit provides professionals valuable resources and information on the topics most critical to working with children and families today.

<http://www.communitycouncilstc.org/events/community-services-summit>

Transition Capacity Building Institute

October 29-31, 2014, Jefferson City, MO

DESE, along with several other state agencies are coordinating this institute to bring together local district staff and local service agency staff to work on capacity building of transition services for special needs students within the district. Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Mental Health, and the Centers for Independent Living will work together to develop a district-wide action plan to coordinate local transition services to students in need. *Counselors are encouraged to attend as part of the school team.* For more information, contact John Stains at (573) 751-0225 or at john.stains@dese.mo.gov.

St. Louis Graduates Professional Development Institute Workshops

Professional Development Institute offers four workshops over the school year, designed for high school, higher education, and college access nonprofit professionals. Professional Development Institute workshops are research-based, interactive, and tap the expertise of a range of seasoned practitioners. **Pre-registration is required.** All workshops are offered free of charge and include lunch. Workshops will take place in the McDonnell Room at EducationPlus, 1460 Craig Rd.

REGISTER TODAY! Space is limited. Register online at <http://www.stlouisgraduates.org/>

Missouri School Counselor Association (MSCA) Fall Conference

November 2-4 Tan-Tar-A Theme: Breaking Barriers - Instilling Hope.

Log on to www.moschoolcounselor.org to check out some of the exciting features:

- *2014 Fall Conference Details
- *How to get Involved with MSCA
- *Missouri School Counselor Blog-NEW!
- *MSCA Social Media Links
- *Counseling Connection Publications

Building Bridges

March 2-3, 2015 Location TBD

Meet the professionals who say, "I Build."

April 14, 2015, is the date for this year's iBuild Showcase at Bartle Hall in Kansas City. The iBuild Showcase is an annual exposition to bring students together for an opportunity to connect with industry professionals (engineers, architects, construction management and skilled trades), to participate in hands-on activities, and to learn how important math, science and other academic skills are to the construction industry. The National Institute for Construction Excellence sponsors iBuild and other events such as Seniors Day, Educators' Day, Middle School Crayons to CAD Project/Competition, and the High School CAD/Design Competition. For more information about these events, visit their website, <http://nice-kc.com/> and their Facebook page, nice-kc.

Student Loan Debt

Seven in 10 college seniors (71%) who graduated last year had student loan debt, with an average of \$29,400 per borrower. From 2008 to 2012, debt at graduation (federal and private loans combined) increased an average of six percent each year. For the full story and Missouri specifics see: http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org/state_by_state-data.php

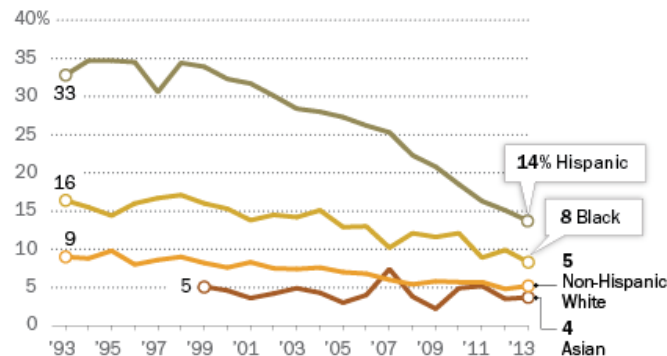
Progress!

More U.S. high school students are staying in school, according to [newly released data from the Census Bureau](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/02/u-s-high-school-dropout-rate-reaches-record-low-driven-by-improvements-among-hispanics-blacks/), as the national dropout rate reached a record low last year. Just 7% of the nation's 18-to-24 year olds had dropped out of high school, continuing a steady decline in the nation's dropout rate since 2000, when 12% of youth were dropouts.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/02/u-s-high-school-dropout-rate-reaches-record-low-driven-by-improvements-among-hispanics-blacks/>

Hispanic, Black High School Dropout Rates Reach Record Lows

Percent of 18-to 24-year-olds dropping out of high school



Notes: The status dropout rate shown refers to the share of 18-to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school. Black and Asian include the Hispanic portion of those groups. White includes only non-Hispanic whites.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau October Current Population Survey

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Employer Insights

A panel of five employers presenting at the MACS conference all indicated that, depending on the job, minimal attention is given to school test scores, grades and even attendance records. Employers do want to know if the applicant graduated as well as their skills (IRCs and TSA type certifications) and experiences. Written and verbal communication skills were a resounding priority and area of need. Attention to detail on the applications, resumes and interview skills also received a lot of attention. All five panelists look for interpersonal skills, initiative, enthusiasm, ability to work with others along with the applicant's skill set. The expected high demand jobs were identified but also included in difficult jobs to fill were the minimum wage service jobs. People don't want to work for \$7.50/hour. What resonated was the need for well rounded applicants or the "whole child" that we define in our personal/social, academic, and career components.

The need for relevant career development experiences and quality guidance programs is real!

It is the policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator–Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number (573) 526-4757 or TTY (800) 735-2966, fax (573) 522-4883, email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.